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cleared, and this observer was informed by planters that numerous "stinging snakes" were found and killed in those localities. This observer having had many years of close association with marshes, brakes and bayous, in this region, has seen only one live specimen of *Farancia abacura* (except in the Memphis Zoo), the inference being that the snake is habitually concealed in the mud constituting its habitat.

Upon the above rather meager array of *facts*, the following hypothesis has been erected to account for the snakes feeding habits and manner of life.

Farancia abacura has its habitat in morasses and cypress brakes in the Yazoo basin and low grounds adjacent to the Mississippi river in the State of Mississippi. This reptile feeds upon the creatures that have their dwelling in the soft mud that constitutes its habitat, as salamanders, "mud eels," newts, "ground puppies," etc. When pursuing its prey in the mud, and after seizing it, the snake feels around with its tail to find a projecting root or other solid object, around which the tail is coiled in order to afford a "purchase" for withdrawing the victim from the surrounding medium of mud, and so enabling the snake to devour its catch. The long continuance and many repetitions of this performance has developed in the snake the habit, when approached menacingly, of concealing its head and flourishing its tail in a manner that is strongly suggestive of the use of the tail as a weapon; hence, the wide prevalence of the fallacious notion that it is possessed of a deadly sting.

T. G. DABNEY,
Clarksdale, Miss.

A LARGE COACH-WHIP SNAKE.

I have been interested in securing records regarding the largest size reached by the various species of snakes in Florida. Anyone having opportunity to measure really large individuals would confer a great favor by writing me. This spring Winthrop

Brooks and I measured a large Coach Whip near Hallandale. We were motoring northward on the Dixie Highway just at dusk when a large snake was seen writhing in the dust. We stopped at once. The snake was hurt badly and could not be saved for a specimen. It had been run over by a camion just ahead of us. We stretched it out by the roadside and measured it; it taped just 98 inches and careful examination showed that it had lost possibly four inches of the tip of its tail. This is the largest individual of *Coluber flagellum flagellum* that I have measured myself. I do not imagine that many Gopher-Snakes (*Drymarchon corais cooperi*) really grow much longer, although one hears as many Snake stories in Florida as one may read in "travel books" about Brazil.

THOMAS BARBOUR,
Cambridge, Mass.